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THAI RICE EXPORT PLAN, SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 1952

Summary: As of mid-September 1952, Thailand had only 75,000 tons of quota rice left to be exported during the rest of the year. Most of this balance was allocated to Britain, with small amounts for Japan, South Korea, and India. The total amount of rice available for export in 1952 will probably be only about 1.2 million tons, of which 800,000 tons will be included in the treaty export quota.⁷

Foreign Demand Exceeds Export Quota Balance

According to the Penang pro-KMT Kuang-hua Jih-pao of 21 September 1952, the Thai government announced that current requests for Thai rice coming from foreign governments totaled more than five times the balance of Thailand's treaty rice export quota. The official report, said the paper, indicated that Britain had asked for 200,000 tons; and India, Indonesia, the Philippines, etc., for a total of more than 200,000 tons, all to be delivered by the end of 1952.

Thailand's 1952 treaty rice export quota balance was 300,000 tons, according to the 6 September Kuang-hua Jih-pao, and appears to have dropped to 75,000 tons according to a report in the 21 September issue of the same newspaper. Both figures were attributed to the Thai Minister of Finance.

The Bangkok Communist Ch'uan-min Pao of 8 November revealed the freezing of free export rice worth several 10-million baht in warehouses along the Mae Nam River. The newspaper charged that the Thai government was holding up free export rice amounting to 70,000 tons in No 1 broken rice and several times 10,000 tons in whole grain, thereby creating a serious situation for farmers and rice dealers.

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RESTRICTEDThai Rice Allocations for Latter Part 1952

The Anglo-Thai Rice Agreement for the second period of 1952, effective 1 November 1952, stipulated that British possessions will get 60,000 tons of rice, according to a report in the editorially independent Bangkok Chung-yuan Pao of 8 November. The Kuang-hua Jih-pao of 24 October noted that 29,000 tons of rice were earmarked for delivery to British Southeast Asia possessions in November, while its 4 December issue indicated that 31,000 tons more had just been allocated to British possessions.

To Japan's request for an additional allocation of 30,000 tons of rice, the Thai government promised only 15,000 tons, said the Bangkok pro-Communist Chung-yuan Wan-pao of 15 November. The paper added that South Korean representatives, tired of waiting for an official reply to their request for white rice, finally settled for 8,000 tons of glutinous rice purchased from a private company. The 19 October issue of the same newspaper noted that Thai authorities agreed to sell India some 10,000 tons of rice before the end of 1952.

Rice Export Possibilities for 1953

The Chung-yuan Wan-pao of 19 October said Thailand's treaty rice export quota for 1953 has been temporarily set at the 1952 volume of 800,000 tons. The paper predicted that Britain, India, Japan, Ceylon, Indonesia, and the Philippines will again figure as Thailand's leading rice customers and that South Korea, too, will request a considerably large volume.

According to the 1 December issue of the Kuang-hua Jih-pao, the Thai Minister of Agriculture announced that his country will have only 1.2 million tons of rice available for export in 1953 as against an approximate total of 1.5 million tons exported in 1952.

The Chung-yuan Pao of 6 November estimated that the Thai government's total income on 1953 white rice exports will amount to 458 million baht. Of this sum, 135 million baht will be revenue from rice export taxes. According to the paper, the Thai government's total income on rice exports in 1952 totaled 334 million baht, including 74 million baht in export taxes.

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